

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

<u>IN THE MATTER OF:</u>)	
)	
Thomasville Lumber Company, Inc.)	
Thomasville, Clarke County, AL)	CONSENT ORDER NO. <u>11-XX-CAP</u>
)	
<u>Air Facility ID No. 102-S011</u>)	

PREAMBLE

This Special Order by Consent is made and entered into by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (hereinafter, “the Department”) and Thomasville Lumber Company, Inc. (hereinafter, “the Permittee”) pursuant to the provisions of the Alabama Environmental Management Act, Ala. Code §§22-22A-1 to 22-22A-16 (2006 Rplc. Vol.), the Alabama Air Pollution Control Act, Ala. Code §§22-28-1 to 22-28-23 (2006 Rplc. Vol.), and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

STIPULATIONS

1. The Permittee is the owner and/or operator of a southern yellow pine dimensional lumber sawmill and lumber production facility (hereinafter, “the Facility”) located in Thomasville, Clarke County, Alabama.

2. The Department is a duly constituted department of the State of Alabama pursuant to Ala. Code §§22-22A-1 to 22-22A-16 (2006 Rplc. Vol.).

3. Pursuant to Ala. Code §§ 22-22A-4(n) (2006 Rplc. Vol.), the Department is the state air pollution control agency for the purposes of the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7401 to 7671q, as amended. In addition, the Department is authorized to administer and enforce the provisions of the Alabama Air Pollution Control Act, Ala. Code §§22-28-1 to 22-28-23 (2006 Rplc. Vol.).

4. On September 26, 2005, the Department issued Air Permit No. 102-S011-Z003 (hereinafter, "Permit No. Z003") to the Permittee authorizing the construction and operation of a 28 MMBtu/hr wood-fired boiler with multiclone (hereinafter "the Boiler"). Proviso No. 24 of Permit No. Z003 states that the Boiler's particulate emissions shall not exceed 0.20 gr/dscf, adjusted to 50% excess air.

DEPARTMENT'S CONTENTIONS

5. On March 1-2, 2011, the Department conducted emission testing on the Boiler.

6. On March 22, 2011, the Department submitted a report of the results of the March 2011 emission testing to the Permittee. The report indicated an average particulate emission rate of 0.252 gr/dscf, adjusted to 50% excess air, during the testing period.

7. On March 23, 2011, the Department issued a Notice of Violation to the Permittee for exceeding the particulate limit of 0.20 gr/dscf, adjusted to 50% excess air.

8. On April 19, 2011, the Permittee submitted to the Department a response to the March 23, 2011, Notice of Violation.

9. On May 20, 2011, the Permittee conducted emission testing on the Boiler.

10. On May 31, 2011, the Permittee submitted to the Department a report of the results of the May 2011 emission testing. The report indicated an average emission rate of 0.131 gr/dscf, adjusted to 50% excess air.

11. Pursuant to Ala. Code §22-22A-5(18)c., *as amended*, in determining the amount of any penalty, the Department must give consideration to the seriousness of the violation, including any irreparable harm to the environment and any threat to the health or safety of the public; the standard of care manifested by such person; the economic benefit which delayed compliance may confer upon such person; the nature, extent and degree of success of such

person's efforts to minimize or mitigate the effects of such violation upon the environment; such person's history of previous violations; and the ability of such person to pay such penalty. Any civil penalty assessed pursuant to this authority shall not exceed \$25,000.00 for each violation, provided however, that the total penalty assessed in an order issued by the Department shall not exceed \$250,000.00. Each day such violation continues shall constitute a separate violation. In arriving at this civil penalty, the Department has considered the following:

A. **SERIOUSNESS OF THE VIOLATION:** The Department considers the Permittee's exceedance of the particulate emission limit a serious violation. The emission limit was established for the protection of human health and the environment.

B. **THE STANDARD OF CARE:** The Permittee's exceedance of an emission limit indicates that the Permittee may not have been properly operating and/or maintaining the Boiler.

C. **ECONOMIC BENEFIT WHICH DELAYED COMPLIANCE MAY HAVE CONFERRED:** The Permittee did not likely derive any economic benefit from the alleged violation.

D. **EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE OR MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE VIOLATION UPON THE ENVIRONMENT:** There are no known environmental effects to mitigate as a result of the alleged violations.

E. **HISTORY OF PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS:** The Department issued a Warning Letter to the Permittee on May 21, 2010, for not maintaining and operating the Facility at all times in a manner so as to minimize emissions of air contaminants. The Department issued a Notice of Violation to the Permittee on January 6, 2006, for operating the Boiler without receiving prior approval.

F. **THE ABILITY TO PAY:** The Permittee has not alleged an inability to pay the civil

penalty.

G. OTHER FACTORS: It should be noted that this Special Order by Consent is a negotiated settlement and, therefore, the Department has compromised the amount of the penalty to resolve this matter amicably, without incurring the unwarranted expense of litigation.

12. The Department has carefully considered the six statutory penalty factors enumerated in Ala. Code § 22-22A-5(18)c., *as amended*, as well as the need for timely and effective enforcement and, based upon the foregoing and attached contentions, has concluded that the civil penalty herein is appropriate and consistent with the historical penalty range imposed by the Department for similar violations (see Attachment A, which is made a part of Department's contentions).

13. The Department neither admits nor denies Permittee's contentions, which are set forth below. The Department has agreed to the terms of this Consent Order in an effort to resolve the alleged violations cited herein without the unwarranted expenditure of State resources in further prosecuting the above violations. The Department has determined that the terms contemplated in this Consent Order are in the best interests of the citizens of Alabama.

PERMITTEE'S CONTENTIONS

14. Permittee neither admits nor denies the Department's contentions. Permittee consents to abide by the terms of this Consent Order and to pay the civil penalty assessed herein.

ORDER

THEREFORE, the Permittee, along with the Department, desires to resolve and settle the compliance issues cited above. The Department has carefully considered the facts available to it and has considered the six penalty factors enumerated in Ala. Code §22-22A-5(18)c., *as amended*, as well as the need for timely and effective enforcement, and the Department has

determined that the following conditions are appropriate to address the violations alleged herein. Therefore, the Department and the Permittee agree to enter into this ORDER with the following terms and conditions:

A. The Permittee agrees to pay to the Department a civil penalty in the amount of \$4,000.00 in settlement of the violations alleged herein within forty-five days from the effective date of this Consent Order. Failure to pay the civil penalty within forty-five days from the effective date may result in the Department filing a civil action in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County to recover the civil penalty.

B. The Permittee agrees that all penalties due pursuant to this Consent Order shall be made payable to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management by certified or cashier's check and shall be remitted to:

Office of General Counsel
Alabama Department of Environmental Management
P.O. Box 301463
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463

C. The Permittee agrees to comply with the terms, limitations, and conditions of the Permit and the Department's regulations immediately upon the effective date of this Consent Order and every day thereafter.

D. The parties agree that this Consent Order shall apply to and be binding upon both parties, their directors, officers, and all persons or entities acting under or for them. Each signatory to this Consent Order certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party he or she represents to enter into the terms and conditions of this Consent Order, to execute the Consent Order on behalf of the party represented, and to legally bind such party.

E. The parties agree that this Consent Order, subject to the terms of these presents

and subject to provisions otherwise provided by statute, is intended to operate as a full resolution of the violations which are cited in this Consent Order.

F. The Permittee agrees that it is not relieved from any liability if it fails to comply with any provision of this Consent Order.

G. For purposes of this Consent Order only, the Permittee agrees that the Department may properly bring an action to compel compliance with the terms and conditions contained herein in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County. The Permittee also agrees that in any action brought by the Department to compel compliance with the terms of this Agreement, the Permittee shall be limited to the defenses of *Force Majeure*, compliance with this Agreement and physical impossibility. A *Force Majeure* is defined as any event arising from causes that are not foreseeable and are beyond the reasonable control of the Permittee, including its contractors and consultants, which could not be overcome by due diligence (i.e., causes which could have been overcome or avoided by the exercise of due diligence will not be considered to have been beyond the reasonable control of the Permittee) and which delays or prevents performance by a date required by the Consent Order. Events such as unanticipated or increased costs of performance, changed economic circumstances, normal precipitation events, or failure to obtain federal, state, or local permits shall not constitute *Force Majeure*. Any request for a modification of a deadline must be accompanied by the reasons (including documentation) for each extension and the proposed extension time. This information shall be submitted to the Department a minimum of ten working days prior to the original anticipated completion date. If the Department, after review of the extension request, finds the work was delayed because of conditions beyond the control and without the fault of the Permittee, the Department may extend the time as justified by the circumstances. The Department may also grant any other additional

time extension as justified by the circumstances, but it is not obligated to do so.

H. The Department and the Permittee agree that the sole purpose of this Consent Order is to resolve and dispose of all allegations and contentions stated herein concerning the factual circumstances referenced herein. Should additional facts and circumstances be discovered in the future concerning the facility which would constitute possible violations not addressed in this Consent Order, then such future violations may be addressed in Orders as may be issued by the Director, litigation initiated by the Department, or such other enforcement action as may be appropriate, and the Permittee shall not object to such future orders, litigation or enforcement action based on the issuance of this Consent Order if future orders, litigation or other enforcement action address new matters not raised in this Consent Order.

I. The Department and the Permittee agree that this Consent Order shall be considered final and effective immediately upon signature of all parties. This Consent Order shall not be appealable, and the Permittee does hereby waive any hearing on the terms and conditions of same.

J. The Department and the Permittee agree that this Order shall not affect the Permittee's obligation to comply with any Federal, State, or local laws or regulations.

K. The Department and the Permittee agree that final approval and entry into this Order are subject to the requirements that the Department give notice of proposed Orders to the public, and that the public have at least thirty days within which to comment on the Order.

L. The Department and the Permittee agree that, should any provision of this Order be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction or the Environmental Management Commission to be inconsistent with Federal or State law and therefore unenforceable, the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

M. The Department and the Permittee agree that any modifications of this Order must be agreed to in writing signed by both parties.

N. The Department and the Permittee agree that, except as otherwise set forth herein, this Order is not and shall not be interpreted to be a permit or modification of an existing permit under Federal, State or local law, and shall not be construed to waive or relieve the Permittee of its obligations to comply in the future with any permit.

Executed in duplicate, with each part being an original.

THOMASVILLE LUMBER CO., INC.

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

(Signature of Authorized Representative)

Lance R. LeFleur
Director

(Printed Name)

Date Executed

(Printed Title)

Date Signed

Attachment A

Penalty Calculation Worksheet

Thomasville Lumber Company, Inc.
Thomasville, Clarke County, Alabama
Facility No. 102-S011

Violation*	Number of Violations*	Seriousness of Violation & Base Penalty*	Standard of Care*	History of Previous Violations*
Excess Particulate Emissions from Boiler	1	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00
Totals		\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00

Economic Benefit \$ -

Mitigating Factors \$ -

Ability to Pay \$ -

Other Factors \$ -

Civil Penalty \$ 4,000.00

Footnotes

*See the "Findings" of the Order for a detailed description of each violation and penalty factors